

What is claimed is:

1. A method for indicating context for displayed information, comprising the steps of:
displaying in a window a first portion of information, wherein the window includes a
5 scroll bar for controlling scrolling of the window through the information and the information
includes a succession of objects; and
displaying indicators representing respective ones of the objects, including ones of the
objects that are outside the first portion of the information that is displayed in the window,
wherein the indicators are displayed in an area of the window, including an area within the scroll
10 bar, and the displaying of such an indicator includes displaying of an attribute of the indicator,
the attribute representing a type of the respective object represented by the indicator.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the displayed attribute of the indicator is a color or a
symbol.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the object type is a text, table, audio, audio-video or
image object type.
- 20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the object type is a sentence, paragraph, section,
division, chapter, page, hypertext link, row, column, cell, image, pause in sound, verse, stanza,
refrain, interlude, movement, chorus, act, scene, commercial, quarter, half, highlight, play,
time-out or bookmark object type.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein positions of the indicators represent relative positions of the objects within the information.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein at least a portion of one of the objects is within the first portion of the information that is displayed in the window, wherein the scroll bar comprises a slider, and wherein the method comprises the step of:

displaying an indicator in an area of the window including an area within the slider, wherein the indicator represents the at least portion of the one of the objects within the displayed first portion of the information, so that a position of the indicator within the slider indicates a position of the window relative to the at least portion of the object.

7. The method of claim 6, comprising the step of:

displaying an enlarged view of the slider responsive to a user command, wherein the enlarged view shows information for the object.

8. The method of claim 1 comprising the step of:

displaying an enlarged view of one of the objects responsive to a pointer being placed in the scroll bar over an indicator for the object.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the information for the object includes a control panel for controlling the object.

10. The method of claim 1 comprising the step of :

scrolling the window to one of the objects responsive to the user clicking a pointing device with a pointer of the pointing device positioned on one of the indicators that represents the respective object.

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11. The method of claim 1, wherein the types of objects for which respective indicators are displayed in the window are determined responsive to a user preference selection.

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10. An apparatus for indicating context for displayed information, the apparatus comprising:

a processor;

a display device connected to the processor; and

5 a storage device connected to the processor, wherein the storage device is for storing a program for controlling the processor, and the processor is operative with the program to display in a window a first portion of information, wherein the window includes a scroll bar for controlling scrolling of the window through the information and the information includes a succession of objects, and display indicators representing respective ones of the objects,
10 including ones of the objects that are outside the first portion of the information that is displayed in the window, wherein the indicators are displayed in an area of the window, including an area within the scroll bar, and the displaying of such an indicator includes displaying of an attribute of the indicator, the attribute representing a type of the respective object represented by the indicator.

15 11. The apparatus of claim 10 , wherein the displayed attribute of the indicator is a color or a symbol.

12. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the object type is a text, table, audio, audio-video
20 or image object type.

13. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the object type is a sentence, paragraph, section, division, chapter, page, hypertext link, row, column, cell, image, pause in sound, verse, stanza,

refrain, interlude, movement, chorus, act, scene, commercial, quarter, half, highlight, play,
time-out or bookmark object type.

14. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein positions of the indicators represent relative
5 positions of the objects within the information.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein at least a portion of one of the objects is within
the first portion of the information that is displayed in the window, wherein the scroll bar
comprises a slider, and wherein the processor is operative with the program to display an
10 indicator in an area of the window including an area within the slider, wherein the indicator
represents the at least portion of the one of the objects within the displayed first portion of the
information, so that a position of the indicator within the slider indicates a position of the
window relative to the at least portion of the object.

15 16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the processor is operative with the program to
display an enlarged view of the slider responsive to a user command, wherein the enlarged view
shows information for the object.

17. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the processor is operative with the program to
20 display an enlarged view of one of the objects responsive to a pointer being placed in the scroll
bar over an indicator for the object.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the information for the object includes a control panel for controlling the object.

19. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the processor is operative with the program to
5 scroll the window to one of the objects responsive to the user clicking a pointing device with a pointer of the pointing device positioned on one of the indicators that represents the respective object.

20. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the types of objects for which respective
10 indicators are displayed in the window are determined responsive to a user preference selection.

21. A computer program product for indicating context for displayed information, the computer program product comprising:

instructions for displaying in a window a first portion of information, wherein the window includes a scroll bar for controlling scrolling of the window through the information,

5 and the information includes a succession of objects; and

instructions for displaying indicators representing respective ones of the objects, including ones of the objects that are outside the first portion of the information that is displayed in the window, wherein the indicators are displayed in an area of the window, including an area within the scroll bar, and the displaying of such an indicator includes displaying of an attribute of
10 the indicator, the attribute representing a type of the respective object represented by the indicator.

22. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the displayed attribute of the indicator is a color or a symbol.

23. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the object type is a text, table, audio, audio-video or image object type.

24. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the object type is a sentence,
20 paragraph, section, division, chapter, page, hypertext link, row, column, cell, image, pause in sound, verse, stanza, refrain, interlude, movement, chorus, act, scene, commercial, quarter, half, highlight, play, time-out or bookmark object type.

25. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein positions of the indicators represent relative positions of the objects within the information.

26. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein at least a portion of one of the
5 objects is within the first portion of the information that is displayed in the window, wherein the scroll bar comprises a slider, and wherein the computer program product comprises:

instructions for displaying an indicator in an area of the window including an area within the slider, wherein the indicator represents the at least portion of the one of the objects within the displayed first portion of the information, so that a position of the indicator within the slider
10 indicates a position of the window relative to the at least portion of the object.

27. The computer program product of claim 26 comprising:

instructions for displaying an enlarged view of the slider responsive to a user command,
wherein the enlarged view shows information for the object.
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28. The computer program product of claim 21 comprising:

displaying an enlarged view of one of the objects responsive to a pointer being placed in the scroll bar over an indicator for the object.

20 29. The computer program product of claim 28, wherein the information for the object includes a control panel for controlling the object.

30. The computer program product of claim 21 comprising:

instructions for scrolling the window to one of the objects responsive to the user clicking a pointing device with a pointer of the pointing device positioned on one of the indicators that represents the respective object .

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31. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the types of objects for which respective indicators are displayed in the window are determined responsive to a user preference selection.

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